

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 7, 13, 14, and 15 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, and 15 are pending.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, and 13-14 were objected to due to various informalities. Applicants have amended the claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 due to the claimed invention allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In particular, the Examiner alleged that claims 1, 4, 13, and 14 set forth a final step of notifying a deliverer, "but the mere provision of a notification, absent any active involvement of said notification in an executed step, does not move to manifest a useful result."

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 13, and 14 recite receiving and notification operations, which represent useful, tangible, and concrete results. For example, the specification clearly indicates that the present invention is useful in that the invention solves the problem of a deliverer not being able to complete the delivery because the recipient is not at home and the deliverer cannot obtain reception approval that is needed for the delivery goods. See specification, page 2, lines 4-8.

The present invention is also tangible, as both the receiving operation and the notification operation represent real and objective operations. For example, the notification operation requires a real, non-abstract method of providing notification to a deliverer. Finally, as the present invention produces an assured result, namely, for example, providing notification to a deliverer, the present invention is unquestionably concrete.

In response to the Examiner's comments alleging absence of "any active involvement of said notification in an executed step," Applicants respectfully submit that as described in the specification, the notification operation clearly includes active involvement. For example, FIG. 14 illustrates an entire system for notifying a recipient of a confirmation request including information for delivery goods entered by a deliverer when the recipient of the delivery goods requiring reception approval is away from home.

For example, the deliverer performs processing for entering a confirmation request S1401 to confirm the intention of the recipient and transmits the confirmation request S1402. See specification of the present invention, page 19, lines 14-18. See also FIG. 14. After reading the specification of the present invention, one of ordinary skill in the relevant art would

readily appreciate that such a process clearly involves "involvement." In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 7 of the Office Action, claims 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed toward non-statutory subject matter.

In particular, the Examiner alleged that the specification does not set forth what constitutes a computer readable medium. Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the relevant art would readily appreciate what constitutes a computer readable medium after reading the disclosure of Applicants' specification. For example, the text describing FIG. 1 clearly states that, "[t]he delivery goods management apparatus 101 further has the program 102 for receiving a request to confirm reception of delivery goods from a deliverer and performing authentication of the deliverer." Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the relevant art would conclude that the program is on a computer-readable medium such as a data Compact Disc, or a Random Access Memory of the delivery goods management apparatus 101. See specification of the present invention, page 5, line 23 – page 6, line 7. See *also* FIG. 1.

On page 8 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner alleged that the "receiving information" and "further storing information" operations are indefinite.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified operations are not indefinite. After reading the specification of the present invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate that the delivery goods management apparatus receives the confirmation request. As indicated by the claim language, delivery goods are entered by a deliverer. Therefore, it logically follows that the confirmation request to confirm reception of the delivery goods entered by the deliverer is received by the delivery goods management apparatus, that is, the entity that is concerned with ensuring that the goods have been delivered. Moreover, the specification clearly states that "the system receives the confirmation request. . . ." See specification of the present invention, page 8, lines 13-18. In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. In particular, the Examiner alleged that "[i]t is unclear how and where information can be extracted from if it is not stored."

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim language clearly states, "extracting recipient information from a storage unit which stores the recipient information. . . ." See claim 1, for example. Therefore, the recipient information is extracted from the storage unit. In response to the Examiner's allegation regarding an omitted step, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants are not required to recite a storing operation, as the information may be previously stored, for example, not stored by the present invention. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, as the rejection is without merit. Applicants have amended claim 1 to provide antecedent basis for "the confirmation request information."

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, be withdrawn under the same grounds as presented for claims 1 and 4.

Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 7 and 15 to clarify the claim language. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 12, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the operation identified by the Examiner is not indefinite. After reading the specification of the present invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate that the information entered by the recipient is received by the delivery goods management apparatus (for example, element 101 of FIG. 1) . For example, the specification clearly indicates that the system performs the operations of the method. Moreover, as claim 9, for example, is a method claim, Applicants are not required to recite the apparatus. In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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